Post 2-12-76

CIA Plot On Nasser Reported

The Central Intelligence Agency plotted to kill Egypt's former president, Gamel Abdul Nasser, in the late 1950s, but did not tell the Senate intelligence committee about the plans, it was reported yesterday.

John Marks, writing in the first issue of Washington Newsworks, a new so-called alternative newspaper, said the Senate committee chaired by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) asked the CIA for information about plots against Nasser and was told: "This agency has no records that any teams or individuals have ever been sent to Egypt for the purpose of attempting to assassinate Nasser."

Marks quoted a retired CIA employee with direct knowledge of the episode as saying that the CIA was furious with Nasser for drifting toward the Soviet camp despite having received considerable aid from the United States.

CIA men had a particular grudge, this source said, because they had spent time and money helping train and advise Nasser's intelligence service.

Marks quoted the former CIA employee as saying that there was an administration policy meeting at which then-Secretary of State John Foster Dulles complained about the problems Nasser was causing for U.S. policy.

His brother, CIA Director Allen Dulles, asked if there were anything the CIA should do. The secretary replied that it should "eliminate that problem."

Three Arab assassination teams were fielded, Marks reported. One never got off the ground; the second was picked up crossing the border and the third got lost.

Months passed, and then, at another policy meeting, Allen Dulles mentioned the assassination plans and the meeting "went into a turmoil," according to the retired CIA employee.

". . . The word went out to stop the (effort) . . . It was a legitimate misinterpretation," he said.

Marks is co-author of "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence."